

(d) whether his Ministry is striving for a level playing field between the STPs and SEZs; and

(e) if so, how his Ministry is planning to do this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) STPI (Software Technology Park of India) has already established 47 centers across the country, out of which 7 centers are in Metros and balance 40 centers are in Tier-II and Tier-III cities.

(b) STPI has already established five centers in the State of Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad, Vishakhapatnam, Thirupati, Vijaywada and Warangal. It has been decided to set up the sixth center in the State at Kakinada.

(c) to (e) The strength of the STP Scheme lies in the fact that it is a virtual scheme, which allows software companies to set up their operations in the most convenient locations and plan their investment driven by business needs. It is a Pan-India Scheme.

The Scheme has been widely successful and exports made by STP units have grown from Rs. 52 Crores in 1992-93 to Rs. 100,965 crores in 2005-06.

The SEZ (Special Economic Zones) scheme caters to both manufacturing and service sectors covering all products and services, where as STP scheme was specifically designed to cater to the IT & ITES sectors. The SME (Small & Medium Enterprises) sector has found the STP Scheme particularly suitable and their share in exports has grown to 47% during 2005-06.

Availing of local code dialing system to Gurgaon/Bahadurgarh

1661. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Faridabad is linked with NOIDA, Ghaziabad by 95 dialing system whereas such facility is not available to the residents of Gurgaon/Bahadurgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the said facility is likely to be provided to the residents of Gurgaon/Bahadurgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Faridabad as well as Gurgaon is linked to Noida/Ghaziabad by '95' dialing system. However, this facility is not extended to residents of Bahadurgarh.

(b) Faridabad is linked with Noida/Ghaziabad by '95' dialing as these places are adjacent Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) and also falling within 50 kms intercircle location which are the criteria for '95' dialing.

Gurgaon was included with Faridabad, Noida and Ghaziabad for '95' dialing as a special package in view of this being commercially very important town in the NCR, even though Gurgaon does not fulfill the criteria for '95' dialing with Noida/Ghaziabad.

Bahadurgarh is not included on '95' dialing with Ghaziabad/Noida as it neither fulfills the criteria nor it is commercially as important as Gurgaon.

(c) Residents of Gurgaon already have this facility. There is no plan to extend the '95' dialing facility to Bahadurgarh for calls to Noida/Ghaziabad. However, Bahadurgarh is already having this facility with Faridabad, Gurgaon and Delhi as per norms.

3-G telephony services

1662. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the recommendation of TRAI, Government propose to auction frequencies allocation to run third generation (3G) telephony services to enhance its revenues;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) as the operators who are allocated frequencies would in turn charge fee from common men i.e. consumers, the precaution proposed to be taken to protect the interest of ultimate beneficiaries of 3-G telephony services?